

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 22-32 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-21 are canceled, and claims 22-23 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 14 is canceled and replaced with new claims which clearly recite and differentiate the various surfaces which in part define the rack guide.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 12-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bugosh (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,821). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 is directed to a rack guide comprising a rack guide base body having a pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces extending parallel to an axial direction transverse to a direction of movement of a rack bar, a pair of planar outer peripheral surfaces extending parallel to said axial direction and each located between the pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces, one axial end surface including a recessed surface located radially inwardly of the pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces and the planar outer peripheral surfaces, and another axial end surface including a cylindrical surface located radially inwardly of the pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces and the planar outer peripheral surfaces; and a slider secured to said recessed surface of said rack guide base body.

Based on the structure, it is possible to provide a rack guide whose movement is guided smoothly by a cylindrical housing of a rack-and-pinion type steering apparatus irrespective of the cut remnants and the like of the gate at the pair of planar surfaces as described in the specification.

Bugosh discloses a cylindrical main body 44 including a cylindrical side wall 46 and axially opposite first and second end surfaces 48 and 50, respectively. However, Bugosh does not disclose a base body that has a pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces extending parallel to an axial direction transverse to a direction of movement of a rack bar, and a pair of planar outer peripheral surfaces extending parallel to the axial direction and each located between the pair of semicylindrical outer peripheral surfaces. Therefore, Bugosh does not anticipate the subject matter of new claim 22 or its dependent claims 23-32.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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